

or literature, or provide very short, dictionary-style entries. The multivolume *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* (Scribner, 1999), on the other hand, provides nearly twelve hundred signed entries. Although most of these articles are short, they do provide a greater variety of information than is found in *Renaissance and Reformation*. Together, *Renaissance and Reformation* and *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* complement one another and form an excellent set of core resources for the study of the Renaissance and the Reformation.

Ideally suited for general readers and also for students in high school or college, this encyclopedia will be a wonderful addition to the reference collections of those academic libraries that support programs in European history, art history, or religious studies. It does not replace other reference works on the Renaissance or the Reformation, but for research on topics related to this period of history, it will be a great starting point that will not overwhelm students.—Gregory A. Crawford, Director, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania

Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film. By Barry Keith Grant. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2007. 4 vols. acid free \$425 (ISBN 0-02-865791-8).

Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film is an attractive, four-volume set with two hundred entries on many different areas of film studies, including genres, history, the industry, interpretation, technology, and theory. What it is not is a who's who in film or a movie guide.

The alphabetically arranged entries range in length from 1,500 to 9,000 words. Written by scholars from around the world, each is well-researched and detailed. Although the language is certainly accessible to the layperson, not all topics covered may be of interest to a general audience. Some examples of entries are "Dialogue," "Gangster Films," "Melodrama," "Silent Cinema," and "Surrealism," just to name a few. It also should be noted that there are a number of entries on cinema in foreign countries, including Australia, Israel, Poland, and Turkey. A list of citations for further reading concludes each entry, and see also references are provided when applicable.

There are more than two hundred color-coded sidebars that profile the careers of important people in film as they relate to a specific topic. For example, Katharine Hepburn appears in the Academy Awards entry because she has won more than any other actor. Each sidebar concludes with lists of recommended viewing and further reading.

Visually, this work is exquisite. The paper is high-quality, which makes reading the text and viewing the five hundred photographs (150 of them in color) a most pleasant experience. Fittingly, perhaps the most stunning photograph is a still from *The Wizard of Oz*, which is featured in the entry on "Color."

The set concludes with a glossary, information about the work's advisors and contributors, and a comprehensive index in which the volume and page range for the main entries are helpfully indicated in bold.

In comparison, Ephraim Katz's hefty softcover book, *The Film Encyclopedia: The Most Comprehensive Encyclopedia*

of World Cinema in a Single Volume, 5th ed. (HarperCollins, 2005), is considerably cheaper (\$30 versus \$425) and covers more ground (nearly 8,000 entries), but it is much less in-depth.

Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film may be a bit pricy, depending on your library's budget. However, in addition to the other positive things already noted about this set, it is also the most up-to-date work of its kind currently on the market. It would be an excellent addition to any general academic library's reference collection and would also be appropriate for larger public libraries.—Samantha J. Gust, Reference Librarian, Niagara University Library, Niagara University, New York

Science, Religion, and Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Controversy. Ed. by Arri Eisen and Gary Laderman. Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe, Inc., 2007. 2 vols. acid free \$279 (ISBN 0-7656-8064-5).

The timing of this publication could hardly be better. In light of high-stakes clashes between and among religious and scientific viewpoints, there is a growing call to raise the level of public and academic discourse in this area. *Science, Religion, and Society* goes a long way toward doing just that. The book originated in a Emory University faculty reading group that attracted colleagues from a wide variety of disciplines and grew into many related projects. True to the spirit of that collaborative discourse, Arri Eisen (a professor of biology and ethics) and Gary Laderman (professor of American religious history) have gathered essays from a remarkably diverse set of contributors from many disciplines in the sciences and humanities and from many traditions, including "Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Taoist, as well as agnostic and atheist, and from African and Native American traditions" (xvi).

Science, Religion, and Society examines its subject as broadly as possible in terms of time, place, culture, and even the concepts of "science" and "religion" themselves. Although articles on the major religions and the Western scientific tradition are included in every section, other articles present perspectives from other cultures and other times. The overall effect is to foster a more nuanced, universal understanding of the themes involved in debates over such issues as evolution and medical ethics. In keeping with this approach, a consistent editorial tone has not been enforced. Though this is beneficial on the whole, some articles suffer from a didactic tone, and a couple are admittedly "idiosyncratic" (6). There are also a few confusing inconsistencies in style.

The great scope and diversity of articles is managed by grouping them topically. There are two introductory sections of general overviews and historical perspectives, followed by six sections on creation, ecology, and evolution; consciousness; healers; death; and genetics. The editors' introductory articles to the sections are valuable and engaging. Each article has a bibliography, and there is a comprehensive bibliography for each of the eight sections at the end of the second volume, along with the general index and information on the

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contributors. The insightful foreword by the Dalai Lama does a nice job of setting the tone for the encyclopedia. The only respect in which the design of the encyclopedia fails the ideals of scholarly discourse is the omission of cross-references among the articles.

This new encyclopedia has to be compared to *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion* (edited by Wentzel Van Huyssteen; Macmillan Reference USA, 2003). The two works have many similarities (fourteen scholars contributed articles to both), but the earlier work is superior as a reference resource. It is far more comprehensive, with more than four hundred entries, compared to only eighty-six in *Science, Religion, and Society*. It also is designed more as a traditional encyclopedia, with alphabetically arranged (and cross-referenced) entries on all major issues, ideas, and persons related to the subject. The advantages of *Science, Religion, and Society* include its topical arrangement, discursive approach, and the inclusion of more traditions in the discussion, notably those of native peoples. Its editors set out to capture the sort of vital, multidisciplinary discourse about science and religion that they discovered in their faculty reading group, and in this they have succeeded. *Science, Religion, and Society* is suitable for academic and public libraries as well as for high school libraries that support advanced courses on the subject.—*Alistair Morrison, Product Manager, LexisNexis, Bethesda, Maryland, and MLS candidate at the University of Maryland, College Park*

Social Dancing in America: A History and Reference. By Ralph G. Giordano. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 2 vols. acid free \$149.95 (ISBN 0-313-33756-X).

There are two good reasons to buy this book. First, it clearly fills a gap in the existing literature; second, the research that makes up the two volumes is both scholarly and carefully detailed.

Perhaps this reviewer missed something, but upon searching four library catalogs (including that of the New York Public Library's renowned dance collection), I uncovered no similar resource. Historical research comprises the bulk of the work, with descriptions of the origins and survival rates of the most popular social dances from the dawn of the seventeenth century to the twenty-first. Author Ralph Giordano treats such questions as why these dances were popular among Americans, and he addresses the global nature of the influences on this part of our culture, discussing Native American, Caribbean, African, and other contributions that helped give rise to uniquely American dance forms. The work illustrates and illuminates how social dancing paralleled the social, economic, and cultural characteristics of each era.

Along with bibliographies and indexes for both volumes, the reference elements include a select bibliography of on-line dance instruction manuals available from the Library of Congress (volume 1), and a select list of Hollywood movies by type of dance (volume 2).

Social Dancing in America constitutes the most comprehensive examination of the subject available. Comparable

titles are usually much more specific in scope, such as Ann Wagner's *Adversaries of Dance: From the Puritans to the Present* (Univ. of Illinois Pr., 1997), or Linda J. Tomko's *Dancing Class: Gender, Ethnicity, and Social Divides in American Dance, 1890–1920* (Indiana Univ. Pr., 1999). Until now, patrons seeking information on social dancing had to discover isolated chapters of more general works on dance history. *Social Dancing in America* is great for public or academic libraries.—*Benedette Palazzola, Assistant Librarian, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

Sport in Ancient Times. By Nigel B. Crowther. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2007. 208p. alkaline \$49.95 (ISBN 978-0-275-98739-8).

Sport is not only a multimillion dollar business in today's global society, it is an integral part of human culture. The premise in studying the nature of sport is to regard it in anthropological terms—that is, the ideas, ideals, and artifacts that human beings create to perpetuate a culture and to pass on its elements to succeeding generations. It is a rare college or university that does not offer at least a few courses on sports, from marketing and psychology to sociology and history. This book lays the foundation for studying sport within any number of disciplines, exploring the games and competitions of ancient society around the world in order to arrive at an understanding of the forms sports take today.

In *Sport in Ancient Times*, classics scholar Crowther describes how ancient cultures engaged in demonstrations of physical prowess that included games and recreation, competitive contests, and activities that involved skill, martial training, and fitness. More importantly, he looks at why. Religious ritual, mock war, social class status, and national identity all figured into the reasons for ancient expressions of sport.

Prefaced by a timeline of ancient civilizations, the book is divided into eighteen chapters, beginning with the Far East and the Middle East, then carrying on through ancient Egypt, the Greek and Roman empires, the Etruscan and Byzantine cultures, and ending with the games of Mesoamerica. A generous number of images of artifacts, sculpture, and manuscripts are included. Through it all, Crowther abstains from easy generalizations, making judicious use of primary resources to arrive at well-considered analyses. Traditionally, students and scholars have considered ancient sports primarily in the light of Greco-Roman civilization, to which the author gives full measure here, especially with regard to the ancient Olympics, chariot races, boxing and wrestling, and the age of gladiators. However, what distinguishes *Sport in Ancient Times* from a rich, growing body of literature examining the heritage of sport is that Crowther also explores the role of women and the place of sport in China, Japan, and the Middle East, areas heretofore given short consideration in sports historiography. Notably, he looks at the widespread engagement in polo-type competitions, in sumo and martial arts, and in foot games similar to modern soccer. In so doing, he creates a synthesis of ancient sport that gives rise to a fresh understanding of this vital human activity.